

# New Jersey Militia Newsletter

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Should you subscribe to the *NJM Newsletter* because of what three Jerseymen did more than two hundred years ago?

Here's what happened to the New Jerseyans who signed the Declaration of Independence!

- John Hart was 65 years old and lived near Trenton on a large farm with several mills. While his wife lay on her deathbed, with him at her side, Hessian troops invaded his property, devastated his farm and destroyed his mills. Hart was forced to flee into the woods. This patriot was hunted like a dog. He avoided capture by hiding in caves. Returning sometime later to his home, broken in health by anxiety and hardship, he found that his wife had died, and that his 13 children had scattered in every direction.
- Abraham Clark had a son who served in the Continental Army. The Redcoats captured him. The enemy had no real interest in keeping American prisoners alive. They confined their captives aboard prison ships moored in coastal waters. Rarely and poorly fed, confinement on a prison ship was tantamount to a death sentence, and a speedy death at that. On prison ships like the "Jersey", docked in New York harbor, more than 11,000 American prisoners of war perished. New York harbor reeked of the stench of death. Imagine Clark's horror when he learned that his son was confined to the "Jersey", and that he was suffering special hardships because he was a signer. The British offered to release his son if he would publicly renounce his cause in favor of King and Parliament. Clark refused, and the fate of his son is unknown.
- Richard Stockton was a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Fearing capture he and his wife and children hid in the home of a brave friend, but a loyalist informant betrayed him. In the middle of the night Redcoats dragged him from bed, brutally beat him, threw him into prison, and nearly starved him to death. Returning to Stockton's home they burned his furniture, his clothing and his fine library and stole his horses and silverware. He died a short time later before the war ended.

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